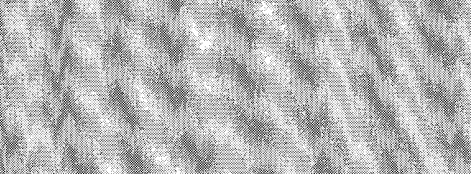


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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above captioned patent application (which is filed herewith), and for calculation of the proper filing fee, Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered.

In the claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-21 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new Claims 22-27 as follows.

22. (New) An antibody that binds to the polypeptide shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2).
23. (New) The antibody of Claim 22 which is a monoclonal antibody.
24. (New) The antibody of Claim 22 which is a humanized antibody.